

Appln. No. 10/622,944
Amendment dated February 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A rack for a bed of a pickup truck, said pickup truck having a front side, a back side and a pair of longitudinal sides, said rack comprising:

a pair of rack end portions, each of said rack end portions comprising:

a first bar ~~, said first bar having a first end and a second end~~
oriented substantially horizontally for resting on the bed of the pickup truck;

a second bar ~~, said second bar being~~ integrally coupled to and ~~extending~~ said first bar in a substantially perpendicular relationship to said first bar such that said second bar extends upwardly away from said second end of said first bar and the bed of the pickup;

a third bar ~~, said third bar being~~ integrally coupled to and extending away from said second bar, said third bar being orientated generally parallel to said first bar such that said third bar has a substantially horizontal orientation;

a fourth bar ~~, said fourth bar being~~ integrally coupled to and extending upwardly away from ~~a free end of~~ said third bar, said fourth bar being orientated generally parallel to said second bar;

a fifth bar ~~, said fifth bar being~~ removably coupled to and extending between said second bars of each of said end portions to thereby connect said end portions together; and

~~a sixth bar, said sixth bar being removably coupled to and extending between said first bar of each of said end portions, said sixth bar having a first end and a second end~~

means for adjusting a distance between said first bar and said third bar by selectively increasing and decreasing a length of said second bar.

Appln. No. 10/622,944
Amendment dated February 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

2. (Currently Amended) The A rack of claim 1, for a bed of a pickup truck, said pickup truck having a front side, a back side and a pair of longitudinal sides, said rack comprising:

a pair of end portions, each of said end portions comprising:
a first bar, said first bar having a first end and a second end;
a second bar, said second bar being integrally coupled to and
extending upwardly away from said second end of said first bar;
a third bar, said third bar being integrally coupled to and extending
away from said second bar, said third bar being orientated
generally parallel to said first bar;
a fourth bar, said fourth bar being integrally coupled to and extending
upwardly away from a free end of said third bar, said fourth bar
being orientated generally parallel to said second bar;
a fifth bar, said fifth bar being removably coupled to and extending
between said second bars of each of said end portions; and
a sixth bar, said sixth bar being removably coupled to and extending
between said first bar of each of said end portions, said sixth bar having a
first end and a second end;

wherein said second bar further comprises:

a first portion, said first portion having a first end and a second end, a front side, a back side and a pair of side edges, said first end of said first portion having a first opening extending therein, said third bar being integrally coupled to and extending away from said front side of said first portion, said fourth bar being integrally coupled to said third bar and extending upwardly away therefrom;

a bracket member, said bracket member being integrally coupled to and extending away from said first side edge of said first portion, said bracket member having a pair of holes, said fifth bar being removably coupled to said bracket member; and

Appln. No. 10/622,944
Amendment dated February 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

a second portion, said second portion of said second bar having a first end and a second end, a front surface, a back surface and a pair of side surfaces, said first end of said second portion being integrally coupled to said second end of said first bar, said second end of said second portion being removably positionable in said opening of said first portion such that said first portion and said second portion are selectively telescoping, said front surface of said second portion having a plurality of notches therein.

3. (Original) The rack of claim 2, further comprising an actuating means for selectively moving said first portion of said second bar with respect to said second portion of said second bar, said actuating means comprising a jack securably attached to said first portion and adapted for engaging said notches.

4. (Original) The rack of claim 2, further comprising a block member, said block member having a first end, a second end and a peripheral wall extending therebetween, said second end of said first bar being integrally coupled to said peripheral wall, said first bar being positioned generally adjacent to said first end of said block member, said second end of said block member having a bore extending therein, said first end of said second portion extending into said bore and integrally coupled to said block member.

5. (Currently Amended) The rack of claim 1, further comprising a pair of foot portions, each of said foot portions comprising a plate, each of said plates having an upper surface and a lower surface, said upper surface of a first foot portion being integrally coupled to said bottom surface of said first bar and positioned generally adjacent to ~~said a~~ second end of said first bar, a second foot portion being integrally coupled to said bottom surface of said first bar and positioned generally adjacent to ~~said a~~ first end of said first bar.

Appln. No. 10/622,944
Amendment dated February 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

6. (Original) The rack of claim 2, wherein said third bar is elongated and has a first end, a second end, an upper side and a lower side, said first end of said third bar being integrally coupled to and extending outwardly away from said front surface of said first portion.

7. (Original) The rack of claim 6, further comprising a support member, said support member extending between and integrally coupled to said front side of said first portion of said second bar and said lower side of said third arm.

8. (Original) The rack of claim 6, further comprising a pair of arced members, each of said arced members being integrally coupled to and extending away from said lower side of said third bar.

9. (Original) The rack of claim 2, wherein said fourth bar is elongated and has a first end and a second end, said first end of said fourth bar being integrally coupled to and extending upwardly away from said second end of said third bar, said fourth bar being orientated generally parallel to said second bar.

10. (Original) The rack of claim 9, further comprising a panel member having a first side and a second side, said first side of said panel member being integrally coupled to a first side edge of said fourth bar, said panel member being positioned generally adjacent to said second end of said fourth bar, said panel member having a pair of slots extending therein.

11. (Original) The rack of claim 2, wherein said fifth bar has a first end and a second end, each of said ends having an aperture extending therein, each of said apertures having a size adapted for receiving one of said bracket members, a pair of fastening means for removably coupling said fifth bar to each of said bracket members, each of said fastening means

Appln. No. 10/622,944
Amendment dated February 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

being positionable in one of said apertures of said fifth bar and extending into a hole of one of said bracket members.

12. (Currently Amended) The rack of claim 1, further comprising a pair of coupler members, each of said coupler members being integrally coupled to and extending away from a first edge of said sixth bar, a first coupler member being positioned generally adjacent to ~~said~~ a first end of said sixth bar, a second coupler member being positioned generally adjacent to ~~said~~ a second end of said sixth bar, each of said coupler members having a pair of holes, each of said coupler members being removably coupled to ~~said~~ first ends of each of said first bars, each of said first ends of said first bars having a pair of holes.

13. (Original) The rack of claim 12, further comprising a pair of coupling means for removably coupling each of said first bars to one of said coupler members, each of said coupling means being positionable in one of said holes of said coupler members and extending into one of said holes of said first bars such that each of said coupling means extend through said pair of holes in said coupler members.

14. (Currently Amended) A rack for a bed of a pickup truck, said pickup truck having a front side, a back side and a pair of longitudinal sides extending therebetween, said rack comprising:

a pair of end portions, each of said end portions comprising;

a first bar, said first bar being elongated and having a first end, a second end, a top wall, a bottom wall and a pair of side walls, each of said side walls having a hole extending therein such that a pair of holes are defined, each of said holes being positioned generally adjacent to said first end;

a block member, said block member having a first end, a second end and a peripheral wall extending therebetween, said second end of said first bar being integrally coupled to said peripheral wall, said

Appln. No. 10/622,944

Amendment dated February 16, 2006

Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

first bar being positioned generally adjacent to said first end of said block member, said second end of said block member having a bore extending therein;

a pair of foot portions, each of said foot portions comprising a plate, each of said plates having an upper surface and a lower surface, said upper surface of a first foot portion being integrally coupled to said bottom surface of said first bar and said second end of said block member, a second foot portion being integrally coupled to said bottom surface of said first bar and positioned generally adjacent to said first end of said first bar;

a first support member, said first support member extending between and integrally coupled to said peripheral wall of said block member and said top side of said first bar;

a second support member, said second support member extending between and integrally coupled to said peripheral wall of said block member and said top surface of said first foot portion;

a second bar, said second bar comprising [[:]] :

a first portion, said first portion having a first end and a second end, a front side, a back side and a pair of side edges, said first end of said first portion having an opening extending therein;

a second portion, said second portion of said leg having a first end and a second end, a front surface, a back surface and a pair of side surfaces, said first end of said second portion being positioned in said bore of said block member and integrally coupled thereto, said second end of said second portion being removably positionable in said opening of said first portion such that said first portion and said second portion are selectively telescoping, said front surface of said second portion having a plurality of notches therein, each of said notches extending

Appln. No. 10/622,944

Amendment dated February 16, 2006

Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

between said pair of side surfaces of said second portion, said notches being spaced from each other;

a bracket member, said bracket member being integrally coupled to and extending away from said first side edge of said first portion, said bracket member being positioned generally between said first and second ends of said first portion, said bracket member having a pair of holes, said bracket member comprising a clevis;

an actuating means for selectively moving said first portion of said second bar with respect to said second portion of said second bar, said actuating means comprising a jack securably attached to said first portion and adapted for engaging said notches;

a loop member, said loop member being pivotally coupled to and extending away from said second end of said first portion, said loop member being comprised of a substantially rigid material;

a securing member, said securing member being movably coupled to said first annular member, said securing member being comprised of a chain;

a third bar, said third bar being elongated and having a first end, a second end, an upper side and a lower side, said first end of said third bar being integrally coupled to and extending outwardly away from said front surface of said first portion, said third bar being orientated generally parallel to said first bar, said third bar being positioned generally nearer said second end than said first end of said first portion;

a third support member, said third support member extending between and integrally coupled to said front side of said first portion of said second bar and said lower side of said third arm;

a pair of arced members, each of said arced members being integrally coupled to and extending away from said lower side of said third bar, said pair of second annular members being positioned generally between said first and second ends of said third bar and

Appln. No. 10/622,944

Amendment dated February 16, 2006

Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

orientated generally parallel to said second bar, said pair of arced members being comprised of a substantially rigid material;

a fourth bar, said fourth bar being elongated and having a first end and a second end, said first end of said fourth bar being integrally coupled to and extending upwardly away from said second end of said third bar, said fourth bar being orientated generally parallel to said second bar;

a panel member, said panel member having a first side and a second side, said first side of said panel member being integrally coupled to a first side edge of said fourth bar, said panel member being positioned generally adjacent to said second end of said fourth bar, said panel member having a pair of slots extending therein, an outer surface of said panel member having a generally concave shape;

a fifth bar, said fifth bar extending between and being removably coupled to said second bar of each of said end portions, said fifth bar having a first end and a second end, each of said ends having an aperture extending therein, each of said apertures having a size adapted for receiving one of said bracket member;

a pair of fastening means for removably coupling said fifth bar to each of said bracket members, each of said fastening means being positionable in one of said apertures of said fifth bar and extending into a hole of one of said bracket members such that each of said fastening means extend through said apertures of said fifth bar, wherein said second bars of each of said end portions are removably coupled together by said fifth bar;

a sixth bar, said sixth bar being elongated and having a first end, a second end, a first side edge and a second side edge, said sixth bar extending between and being removably coupled to each of said second ends of said first bars, said sixth bar being orientated generally perpendicular to each of said first bars;

a pair of coupler members, each of said coupler members being integrally coupled to and extending away from one of said first edges of

Appln. No. 10/622,944
Amendment dated February 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2005

said sixth bar, a first coupler member being positioned generally adjacent to said first end of said sixth bar, a second coupler member being positioned generally adjacent to said second end of said sixth bar, each of said coupler members having a pair of holes, each of said coupler members comprising a clevis; and

a pair of coupling means for removably coupling each of said first bars to one of said coupler members, each of said coupling means being positionable in one of said holes of said coupler members and extending into one of said holes of said first bars such that each of said coupling means extend through said pair of holes in said coupler members.

15. (New) The rack of claim 1, wherein said second bar comprises a first portion and a second portion, said first portion of said second bar and said second portion of said second bar being telescopically mounted together to permit said first portion to be telescopically extended and retracted with respect to said second portion; and

wherein said means for adjusting the distance between said first bar and said second bar comprises an actuating means for selectively moving said first portion of said second bar with respect to said second portion of said second bar to telescopically extend and retract said first portion with respect to said second portion.

16. (New) The rack of claim 15, wherein said second portion of said second bar is mounted on said first bar and said third bar is mounted on said first portion of said second bar.

17. (New) The rack of claim 15, wherein said second portion of said second bar has a plurality of notches formed along a portion of a length of an outer surface of said second portion, and said adjusting means is configured to engage at least one of said notches to adjust a degree of extension of said first portion with respect to said second portion.